

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1, 4, 7-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are amended to be in independent form. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 4 was objected to for minor informalities; Claims 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. Patent 2003/0036673, herein "Schmidt"); Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Ryan (U.S. Patent 5,059,185, herein "Ryan"); Claims 1, 4 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Martell (U.S. Patent 4,897,083, herein "Martell"); and Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

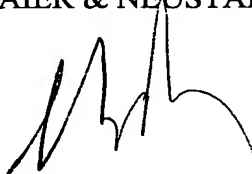
At the outset, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 recite allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding the objection to Claim 4 and the rejections of Claims 1, 4, and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, as Claims 1, 4, and 7-15 are canceled, Applicant respectfully submits that any objection or rejection regarding these claims is moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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